ONE YEAR IN THE OBSERVER TREE

STANDING FIRM FOR THE PROTECTION OF TASMANIA'S THREATENED FORESTS

WWW.OBSERVERTREE.ORG

Front cover image: 'Miranda's Perch' by Andrew Donohoe

ONE YEAR IN THE OBSERVER TREE

The story should be well known by now. Miranda Gibson, a now world-renowned environmental activist, has been living at the top of the Observer Tree, a 60 metre, 400 year old gum tree near Mt. Mueller in central Tasmania, to protest against the ongoing logging of Tasmania's native forests. She has already broken Australia's record for the longest tree-sit and now on December 14 she will be celebrating her one year anniversary of her tree-top vigil in the middle of Tasmania's dense, ancient forests. On day one of her new life at the top of the tree, Miranda made this promise: "I vow to stay here until these forests are protected." A year on she remains as committed as ever to this promise.

And it certainly takes commitment to remain up there. Miranda has endured rain, wind, hail and snow through Tasmania's chilly winter. Her home consists of a small wooden platform and a tarp for shelter. The tree is equipped with solar panels so Miranda has light at night and can charge her laptop and mobile phone to work on her Observer Tree blog and communicate with the outside world. Below on the forest floor live several threatened wildlife species, including Tasmanian devils and spotted quolls. And the majestic wedge-tailed eagle can be spotted soaring above the canopy.

From her tree-top platform Miranda has skyped her way around the world, talking to thousands of people and raising awareness about Tasmania's forests along the way. Her vigil has been successful in gaining national and international media attention with her story making it onto the pages and airwaves of news organisation such as CNN in the US and The Guardian in the UK and closer to home, Miranda was able to make an appearance via video on ABC's Q&A.

Much has happened since Miranda has been up in her tree. Miranda missed Christmas last year and turned 31 up the tree. She has had visits from many people including Bob Brown, Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon, a group of South Korean journalists, and her mum. For her efforts and commitment Miranda received the Bob Brown Foundation's 2012 Award for Environmental Courage.

All the while Tasmania's lengthy 'forest peace' talks between environmental, unions, community and industry groups have been on and off and on again. A deal was finally reached in November, but the agreement at this stage fails to offer a guarantee of protection for Tasmania's ancient forests, says Miranda. This means that Miranda will continue her lone vigil at the open-air rooftop of Tasmania's isolated forests. But for now though, it's time to celebrate a year of dedication to Tasmania's native forests and congratulate Miranda for her commitment.

Miranda before ascending the Observer Tree, at the base of an old growth Eucalypt in the Counsel forest, which has now being logged.

MESSAGES FROM THE GROUNDCREW

For the past twelve months while Miranda Gibson has been in the tree, her fellow activist team has walked in with her food and water, provided support at a base camp at the bottom of the tree, climbed the tree to keep her company, conducted meetings and campaign strategy with her on the phone.

And while the twelve months has passed, activists who work with Miranda have had experiences that illustrate the time lapsed in her amazing feat. Ali Alishah spent three months in Risdon prison after being arrested for a number of protest actions. Em has been pregnant and given birth to Jetta, who is now three months old.

Some of her fellow activists have given some insights in to their comradeship with Miranda Gibson, a woman who we all hold in awe at her committed, brave and courageous effort living in a tree in a threatened forest in the remote Tasmanian forests.

What a trooper! Miranda is a good example of standing up for what you believe in. Keeping herself busy for a year is no easy feat. Sunny

The first time I visited Miranda the moon was out and it snowed on me as I climbed up the sky to the ObserverTree. It was a beautiful moment. I realised that my friends was living in a frozen paradise. Nissa

Even as a person who hangs off ropes for a job, when the wind blows at the top of the tree, I freeze for a second. I can look over at Miranda, calm and not a glint of fear. I think she's more at home in the canopy than on the ground. Piers

1 year, that's a bloody long time. Nish

Miranda went up the tree a week after I conceived my son, he is now nearly four months old. I climbed up to see my friend, Miranda for the first time the other day and it happened to be exactly a year later to the day of the conception. Em

Thanks for being there Miranda. In a time where the forest campaign has dropped off the radar due to the forest agreement negotiations, you have been a solid rock, providing a constant reminder to the world of what we stand to loose when ancient forests are logged. I think your actions are more powerful than most people can understand. People find it hard to fathom your resolve, commitment, and clarity of conviction because these qualities are rarely shown in humans, but exist in us all. You are such a rare individual who really has given all of yourself to the places that we all love and want to see protected. For that we can't thank you enough. Inspiring, strong, courageous, articulate, artist, compassionate, intelligent, leader, brave. I could fill this zine with words that come to mind when I think of you.....LEGEND! Ed

I was in Tokyo when Miranda had been up in the observer tree for five months - winter was coming and her tree sit already seemed epic. A young woman of Miranda's age pulled me aside to say she follows the blog daily. She has been so inspired by Miranda that she is volunteering time on forest campaigns. Quite shy, she asked if I could please let Miranda know of her support Nd admiration. In the heart of busy Tokyo her heart is in the Tasmanian forest, in the tree tops. Peg Putt

The international photographer Bill Hatcher was a lovely guest, very kind and helpful with preparing meals and hot water for Possum. He shared the joy of the fine art of timing the cooking on a smokey fire in rain and mud to get a good meal in a green bag up the tree. It was through a conversation with Bill that we came to name groundcrew Wombats and the tree sitter Possum.

I was less impressed when Bill gave me one of the scariest times at Obstree when as arranged he swooped in by helicopter for a photo shoot of Possum hovering what appeared to be dangerously close to the tree while I hopelessly screamed and gesticulated from the forest floor for him and the chopper to BACK OFF! That was scary, though I was reassured that it was safe.

Some people have questioned me how it is a tree can run my life? I really wonder myself at times! Our commitment to supporting Miranda arises from our belief and trust in her good natured wisdom that has grown through years of working with her. This respect manifests in practical ways as we strive to be the best boots we can be for our Poss Boss!

Miranda's endless patience with our many incompetencies is legendary as is her good humour in dealing with the consequences. A sense of humour is essential when working in challenging conditions and Possum's cheerful optimism often carries us through difficult tasks. If anything seems too hard on the ground we have only to think of Miranda up in the tree and the motivation is renewed. The reward is a happy thank you! from Poss when we have successfully achieved a goal.

One of the best times was when possum was visited by her mum. The forest was full of the sound of their laughter for four days, except when they slept and ate. On the water run I could even hear them from the log landing up there laughing in the tree. - Ceci

TASMANIAN GRASSROOTS GATHERING
ACTIVIST SKILLSHARE 18 - 20 JANUARY, 2012

Share skills & knowledge with the Huon Valley Environment Centre, Still Wild Still Threatened, CODE Green, Groundswell @ Lonnavale, Southern Tasmania. Stay tuned for more details.

Reclaim and Celebrate the Right to Practice Civil Disobedience

We who in engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension.
We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

CRITIQUE OF THE TASMANIAN FOREST AGREEMENT

The following critique of the forest agreement has been prepared by Miranda Gibson of Still Wild Still Threatened and Jenny Weber of the Huon Valley Environment Centre. We hope this will help to unpack some of the detail in the agreement and dispel some of the myths about what it will mean for our forests. ***Please read and share.***

#1: NO TIME FRAME FOR PROTECTION AND FALSE NUMBERS ON THE AREA OF FOREST TO BE PROTECTED

Although we would welcome the creation of reserves, if and when that happens, the numbers of hectares being often quoted are misleading. A deeper analysis shows a very different reality in terms of real forest protection. The more realistic figure is 395 000 ha, down from 610 000ha. Though there is nothing certain in the agreement for secure protection.

It is 395 000ha on the table for the first tranche, this is far different from half a million. The remaining areas that have been agreed for protection will be held to ransom, pending silencing the rights of people to participate in a democracy, and remaining areas will be logged over ten years and then possibly protected.

There is no moratorium on logging of the proposed reserves in sight, and in fact there are clauses that allow for logging to continue in these areas. In addition there is no transition schedule worked out according to a timeline.

Ongoing logging within the proposed reserve area is unacceptable. Given the track-record of rescheduling efforts so far, none of which have led to the full implementation of the moratorium or conservation agreement, this clause raises serious concerns about how much forest will be logged and how long it will be before the reserves are protected. The wording in the agreement implies that the protection of these areas will only occur if and when rescheduling takes place. "*The Signatories will work with governments and Forestry Tasmania (including the Chair of the Board) to develop the agreed transitional schedule* ***prior to the issuing of the Protection Orde*****r".**

There is no indication of how long it will take for the Protection Order to be delivered. In the meantime logging will continue. If this process must be done before the Protection Order, and in addition the first durability report also complete, there will be a considerable delay on implementing protection.

The 21 411 hectares that will be logged once-off or of-last-resort cannot be considered to be part of the reserve figure either, because they will be open for logging. They have no guaranteed protection in the future, as their tenure status will be dependent on wood supply.

#2: WOOD CHIPPING AND CLEAR-FELLING TO CONTINUE IN TASMANIA'S FORESTS

The use of the woodchips produced in the logging cycle is still left unresolved. Alarming and unacceptable wood chipping and clear-felling will continue in Tasmania's forests, with the support of the environment groups signed on to the agreement. Silvercultural practices need to change, yet the deal locks in unsustainable and ecologically damaging logging practices.

Biomass is not mentioned in the agreement, though it is not specifically ruled out as a domestic option that will be proposed in to the future for feeding native forests in to furnaces or ethanol plants.

Triabunna woodchip mill has been urged by the signatories to reopen. If Triabunna woodchip mill is not re -opened or another alternative for ongoing unsustainable wood chipping, this will be reflected in a durability report prior to the protection order.

If the durability report and therefore the possibility of the Protection Order even being implemented are reliant on external parties such as Triabunna Mill, and reliant on the locking in of wood chipping, then there is a real risk that there will never be protection. Or that the destructive, large scale and low value industry based on wood chipping that has already failed in Tasmania, will be brought back to life and propped up by this agreement.

The clauses around "residues" clearly highlight the intentions to continue to log native forests on industrial scale.

#3: ABANDONED TRANSITION OUT OF NATIVE FORESTS

The transition out of native forests that was a core conservation outcome and outlined in the Statement Of Principles seems to have been abandoned, as signatories agree to an "ongoing, vibrant forestry industry based in native forests." The concept of seven years of research planning is mentioned in the agreement, subsided by the government. This appears to be either a tokenistic gesture or a delay tactic. What Tasmania needs and what the global customer base need is not ambiguous statements, but a clear time frame for a transition.

Another aspect of the agreement that point to a further entrenchment of native forest logging include the redefinition of state forest areas as "Permanent Wood Production Zones." This change in language from the previous "multiple use forest" definition, indicates the real intentions of this agreement and that is to leave these forests open for logging permanently.

We are calling for a clear time frame to be placed on a transition and are calling of the industry out out of native forests within two years.

#4: SAWLOG BUYBACK REALLOCATED

The saw log quota has only been reduced to 137,000. And this is in fact a minimum not a maximum requirement, allowing for this to be increased at any time, but never reduced.

Controversially a larger quantity of cubic metres was offered to the Government for the HQ sawlog contract voluntary buyback program that could have reduced the HQ sawlog quota to less than 137 000 cubic metres, subsequently securing more forests for protection. Now the signatories are suggesting additional funding for the loggers and the sawlog quota will not be retired but reallocated. This essentially means that the entire process of a government funded saw log buy back scheme failed to achieve the conservation outcomes intended, because the majority of the quota bought back will be re-distributed. The question must be raised, will this then work to simple eliminate some of the smaller saw mills and bolster up the remaining mills?

#5: POTENTIAL SUPPLY OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS TO TA ANN

The Agreement indicates that a lot is yet to be negotiated and finalised. One controversial aspect of the industry has been the supply of wood from high conservation value forests to Ta Ann. The agreement does not indicate that this will cease. And as it is clear the destruction of those forests is set to continue, it is evident that Ta Ann will continue to receive this wood. For Ta Ann to continue to sell ply made from such destruction and labelled as "eco" friendly does not resolve the controversy in the market place. International customers expect a higher environmental standard and the tick of approval from some environment groups is not enough if there is no real change to the company's practices.

Alarmingly, Clause 6 states "long-term compensable supply contracts, with **legislated sovereign risk protection."**To legislate these supplies is a risk to Tasmania, when markets could change again and continue to decline, leaving the taxpayer to compensate. In addition, it raises questions about Ta Ann and whether their controversial wood supply will be legislated, locking them into destruction of our native forests.

#6: FALSE MARKET ENDORSEMENT FOR CONTROVERSIAL PRODUCT

The unfounded "peace in our time" assurances that will be made by the signatories in the international market are unacceptable. As is the call for a government funded propaganda machine to sell clear-felled native forest products internationally. Ultimately Tasmania's wood products must stand the test of international scrutiny, and a PR campaign coupled with a tick of approval for some environment groups will not be enough to hide the fact that destruction is continuing in the forests. The only way to bring about market stability is to bring the product in line with customer expectations by adopting strict environmental practices, which this agreement fails to do.

#7: DURABILITY

The details about the durability reports are absent, though there is a clear requirement that they be delivered *before* protection of forests. This not only leads to a very dubious delay in forest protection, but also leaves a cloud of uncertainty around whether protection will ever be implemented.

The protection of these forests should not be subject to conditions. They have been verified as high conservation value

by independent scientists and should be protected regardless. Yet, the agreement implies that the protection will not proceed unless there is “public and proactive” support for entire agreement, including in the market place. This kind of statement is akin to blackmail. To expect the public, who have not been consulted or involved in this process, to give proactive support to this agreement is a way of stifling open and honest public debate and discussion. The community should be free to critique aspects of the agreement without being having those verified forests held to ransom. The specific mention of public support in the markets is unacceptable. There are problems with this agreement in terms of the real conservation measures that would be needed to satisfy customers buying ‘eco-friendly’ products. These customers have a right to know about these issues. There should be space for problematic aspects of the agreement to be critiqued.

#8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Agreement refers to “ in relation to activities external to this agreement that may undermine it,” Yet, it is questionable how this agreement can be bound by activities that are external to it. And if this clause is intended to refer to protest activity, it is extremely problematic and a dangerously undemocratic precedent to set.

#9: MISSING TIMELINES, ONGOING LOGGING AS DELAY CONTINUES TO PROTECT FORESTS OR RESTRUCTURE THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY THAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO TRANSITION THE INDUSTRY OUT OF NATIVE FORESTS

When it comes to conservation outcomes, this agreement lacks in substance. Filled with vague statements and a distinct absence of time frames for protection, it does not offer with confidence any indication that forests will be adequately protected.

#10: CERTIFICATION

The agreement appears not to rule out AFS certification, which is an unacceptable form of certification for forests and which is aligned with PEFC, a certification standard that has been condemned internationally by environment groups. The call for FSC certification is also problematic, because it is based around the permanent timber production zones, which will consist of native forests outside the reserves. An attempt to gain FSC for these areas shows an intention to continue to log them, indicating again the clear lack of a transition. The reality is, however, that current industry practices including clearfelling and cable logging are unacceptable and should not be approved by environmental certification standards such as FSC.

The agreement states that the forest manager should be “able to undertake and demonstrate full management control of the production forest estate (forest management area).” This looks suspiciously like an attempt to lock in Forestry Tasmania to managing the forests, which is in contradiction to the government’s approach in relation to the URS review, which would see a restructure of FT. FSC for Forestry Tasmania’s logging practices, unacceptable agreement that an Australian forestry standard is a standard suitable for forestry industry. This standard is not recognised as such domestically or internationally.

#11: FOREST PRACTICES CODE NEEDS STRENGTHENING

The statement that “the Forest Practices Code should be progressed in a manner consistent with this agreement” is vague and meaningless, and raises alarm bells around the critical issue of the FPC upgrade that has been recommended by the Forest Practice Authority. The statement in the agreement could be interpreted in a number of ways, and in fact to say that the FPC be “consistent with this agreement” seems to imply that the code, like everything else in this deal, be treated as secondary to wood supply.

#12 SPECIAL SPECIES ZONES

There are questions around the management of such zones. In particular around those areas identified as eucalypt forest, as the agreement states “If any forest within the Special Craft and Timber Zone is typed as eucalypt forest the special management order should permit those forest areas to be harvested as if they were part of the Permanent Timber Production Zone Land.”

Such areas could be exposed to the same industrial scale logging as the permanent production zones, and therefore they cannot be included in the reserve figure.

#13 REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT IS FLAWED & SHOULD NOT BE ENDORSED

This agreement implies endorsement and support for the Regional Forest Agreement – which should, instead, be thrown out. "The outcomes of this agreement should be incorporated into existing State and Federal mechanisms, including the **Regional Forest Agreement."**RFAs are discredited and should not be entrenched through this agreement.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in the canopy next to the Observer Tree. Photo by Miranda Gibson.

Hello, I'm known as the Observer Tree. *I'm a Eucalyptus, the tallest flowering trees on earth. And I live in the heart of Tasmania's southern forest. I live with my brothers, sisters, cousins and friends. We have lived here together for hundreds of years.*

Over the years all different animals have stopped by to rest for a while and eat my leaves which I am happy to share, because I am an evergreen tree so I always have plenty to go around.

My favourite animal that comes to visit is the brush tail possum. During the day they tend to sleep a lot in the hollows of my branches and they tell me that they really love the taste of the oil that comes out of my leaves. The brush tail possums are good friends because they also eat the insects that try to bug me.

Every now and then, I throw out my old leaves and twigs and they gather around my base on the ground making a whole new habitat for insects and plants to live in…… I am pretty considerate when you think about it!

Let me tell you a story about a human named Miranda Gibson that has also come to live with me.

Last December I was frightened by big crashes and when I looked around one of my cousins had vanished!!! These crashes continued and lots of other trees vanished as well. Other trees whispered to me that humans called loggers and their machines were causing the disappearances. I cannot understand why they would do this as we are part of the lungs of the land and provide the oxygen that you humans and other life depend upon, so I'm also pretty useful!

We also store lots of carbon and when we are cut down, that carbon is released into the air and due to climate change it makes it difficult for all life on this planet.

I woke up one morning to lots of human activity on the ground at my base. This frightened me because I thought they had come to cut me down.

However it turns out that they had come to help save me and all the other trees in the forest.

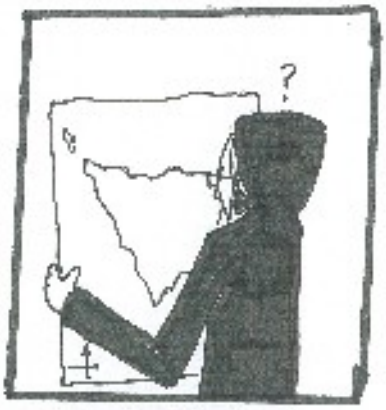
First they built a platform in my lower branches which is suspended by ropes they felt a bit heavy at first but I got used to it. Then one of them used a special rope and climbed up me and made herself at home on the platform. When all the humans below left, my new visitor introduced herself as Miranda and told me she was here to help protect me and all my forest family and friends and would stay as long as it took.

It has now been over 300 days that Miranda has lived with me, her other friends bring her food and water, she sings and talks to me and cuddles up close when it snows. I haven't heard any more crashes. However, Miranda tells me that I won't be completely safe until the logging is banned – PLEASE HELP, you humans need us trees!

About the author: *Taya Iverach is 8 years old. She goes to Padstow Heights Public School, and was asked to write a story about the environment. Taya chose to write about the Observer Tree. She was selected as 1 of 4 students from her school to go to the East Hills District public speaking heats. Everyone was impressed by her speech and asked many questions about the Observer Tree.*

I love how the Observertree project has brought people together. I've bonded with people I hardly knew over tracking Tasmanian devils, getting heavy car batteries to the base of the tree, or just a simple love and admiration for Miranda and the ancient forest she is defending.
I have had some hilarious moment helping Miranda out with some of the videos on her blog - filming her trying to 'fly' in Kat's "Superpossum" film, and trying to stop 'Santa's' beard from blowing off his face in last Christmas' video are some particularly memorable moments.
I've really loved bringing people out to the ObserverTree. Without fail, everyone loves the forest and the echidnas, wrens, cockatoos, quolls, snakes and other creatures they come across in it. And I love how excited people are about climbing or being hauled up the tree.
Last Easter we had a skillshare at Camp Floz, and as part of that I took a few people on a walk around the ObserverTree coupe, changing batteries, sim cards and bait at some of our fauna cameras and to the bottom of the tree to talk to Miranda over radio. That day, the weather went from being unseasonably warm to unseasonably cold, and we walked the final leg up to Miranda's tree in snow and hail. We delivered some food and letters to Miranda and left her battening down her tarps before the weather got any worse. When we got back to camp and thawed out, we watched the footage from the cameras and one of them had a young Tasmanian devil.

- Fran, author of the following comic...



I've always liked looking at maps, but I've never been great at navigation.

...But after spending a certain length of time in old growth forests and clear-fells, you start wanting to learn to decipher Forestry Tasmania's logging coupe maps.

It looks kind of like a heart-shaped scar on the landscape – how appropriate ...Uhh, I think we should turn left here.

They are the maps that divide these ancient ecosystems into numbered sections to be felled and sold.

In our efforts to protect the forest, we travel on roads that we wish didn't exist to places that might no longer be there the next time we come.

The first time I went to the forest known as coupe TN044B it was cold.
Isn't it beautiful?
If you ignore all that clearfelled area.
I'm not getting up until the frost thaws off my swag.
Do you have phone signal there?

By the time I returned it was the start of a long hot summer...

Did you see that?
Yeah.
...and we were in and out of that forest quite often...

...bringing supplies out for Miranda and her ground crew...
If I carry all these potatoes and oil up the hill we can eat CHIPS

...putting fauna cameras out
I hope we get some quality footage on here.
and watching the footage...
Aaaahhh!
...having high-tech phone meetings...
This should make the speakerphone work
Miranda can you still hear us?
Why is there smoke coming out of the phone?
...getting to know the forest...
Dark moon again.
It gets a bit dark here ay.
...generally being eco-heroes...
How does Miranda take tea then?
She's got all the additives up there.
...and broadcasting the Observertree to the world.
That was Miranda, her solar panels not working and her computer's nearly dead.
But she's meant to be Skyping with the media at 12!

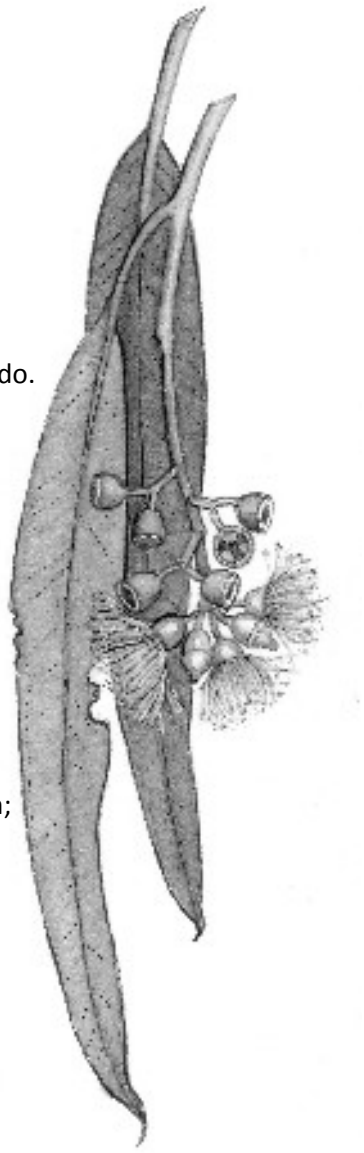
Wherever the rest of us have been in the last 6 months, Miranda has been up the tree.
Hi!
Hi! Is Dylan with you?
Oh yeah, I think he's looking at footwear...
THIS BACK ONLY $2

Now it's cold again, and as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement on forestry process some of us are looking at maps again – maps that tell us which areas of forest are deemed 'high conservation value' enough to protect and which are not.

Maybe the people who make decisions about the lines on the maps need to spend a lot more time in these forests.
Goodnight possum.
Goodnight ground crew.

FH2012

MAGIC AND LOVE



I am thinking of Miranda as I stand on my rooftop.
Peering in vain through the polluted skies
searching for a glimpse of stars
missing the cold brilliance of the sparkling Tasmanian night.
I am thinking of a woman I know
and wondering at the quiet strength that keeps her there
on a tiny wooden platform, in a tree, for a year.
A year is a long time.
I remember all I have done and the places I have been in my past year
but I suspect that she has travelled further and deeper than most of us ever do.
And I am thinking that what keeps her there
is magic, and love.

But this is no top-hat-and-tails magic.
There is no glamorous assistant, lipstick-smiled in spangles.
There is no mystical smoke to be seen.
This is magic with its dirty boots on
wearing workday clothes
insinuating itself into the mundane and the overlooked.
This is the magic that can hide a hundred tons of eucalyptus tree
inside a gumnut smaller than my fingernail.
This is the magic that makes the sap rise and the leaves turn towards the sun;
that weaves an ecosystem from a million diverse threads
with every one in harmony.
Sixty metres high, swaying in the wind
Miranda sits surrounded and suspended by magic.
But you can call it 'science'
if that makes you feel more comfortable.

And love?
This love is not the stuff of romance novels.
There are no eyes-across-a-crowded room
hearts and overheated declarations.
Roses will not be given (especially as they are a non-native species)
though I believe chocolate has made an occasional appearance.
This love is made from the aching muscles gained from a two hour walk uphill through the bush
carrying food, batteries, tools.
From the countless hours given from peoples lives
to organise, create, sustain this vigil.
Her platform is not only made of wood and rope
but of the cold fingers that tied the knots.
This love digs shit-pits, fetches water,
huddles under a tarp in the rain to keep a friend company.
This love sees injustice and desecration and says "no"
says "this will not happen in my name"
says "we must do something, we must change things."
This love is not the stuff of novels
but it might yet make the history books.

The dogs start their midnight howling and I wrap my blanket tighter, turn to go.
And I think of her cocooned in her sleeping bag
surrounded by the million tiny sounds of the forest at night.
Sustained and nourished through all these long months
by magic
and love. - Kat

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM THE OBSERVER TREE BLOG

Thank you soo much Miranda and all the crew who have made this possible. You are a credit to the human race and looking after all of our futures let alone our collective souls. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Stay strong and know you have a lot of supporters out here, though most not in nearly as beautiful surrounds. - Cory

Hola Miranda: En el día de hoy el periódico El Tiempo de Colombia ha publicado tu reseña bibliográfica y nos ha emocionado mucho. No nos aguantamos las ganas de felicitarte y demostrarte nuestra solidaridad. - Gonzalo Palomino Ortiz – Grupo Ecológico Universidad del Tolima (Colombia)

Visited The Observer Tree today – ably guided by Geoff. It is awe inspiring that anyone can feel so passionate about anything that they would spend an indefinite amount of time in such an exposed and isolated position. You have my total admiration Miranda. It must also be acknowledged that efforts such as this require the assistance of a dedicated ground crew – well done guys.
Thank you all for keeping the forestry issue in the public eye, the sooner the problems can be resolved the better for us all.
In awe, Chris

Just discovered you on CNN!!…..you are making headlines here in Brasil, where I live…..I am so impressed, proud and envy of your commitment. I wish I could do the same here to catch attention on what is going on our amazon rain forest….. But for now, count on me to share your work !! Kudos to you.
- Denise

I'm an American living in Turkey and read about your crusade on CNN! I commend you for your perseverance, creativity and vision for a better world! You are an inspiration to others – each person's purpose/vision is valuable and interconnected. Blessings and prayers for others to follow and do what is right!! - Cherri

Greetings Dear Miranda! I am an "old lady" sitting in the southern United States who just happened upon your magnificent endeavor. How odd that someone like me would stumble upon your site a whole "world" away. But think of it… stumble upon it I did! And I hope to pass your message along to all sorts of people in my part of this wondrous planet. And if nothing else, I pray that the fact your message is truly moving across the world gives you a bit of hope on those long days when spirits may lag. Bright Blessings dear one! -Rann

Thank you for sharing those beautiful glimpses of the forest. One day I hope to get down there to see it for myself. And that all Australia's children of the future be able to see it too. Stay strong, Miranda, many people are behind you in this. Peace and best wishes. - Rowan

want to leave a little message for you but no words can describe the utmost respect and admiration i have for you Miranda..Lots of love from all the folks up here in Alice x
- Cazza

A beautiful beaming face and a warm heart a midst all that snow. It is not only your courage that is inspiring Miranda, but how your deep love of the forest shines through in every post- it is very moving. You now look to be a part of it, as if you took root and grew there, reminding us that we are all a part of it xx - farawaytree

Fantastic operation for to save the forest. You have my great respect. In Italy, I saw your mission and I write you. You're a great woman. Ciao from Milan.
- Gepposka

Hi Miranda, I'm Francesca, I leave in Rome, i'm eleven years old, this evening I saw a documentary on tv about you and your forest, and I would like to tell you how much I appreciate your work and effort to defend tasmanian forest; I would like to be with you, on your tree! Hold on! - Francy

i'm sarawakian and i'm proud of u..you inspire me a lot - Justine

I just had the privilege of hearing Bob Brown speak at Murdoch Uni in Perth. He spoke of you with the highest regard and told us how long you have been up the tree and how in recent days it has started to snow. I just wanted to say you represent something so important to us all – the ability to believe in the possibility that we can make a difference in this world. I cannot begin to imagine what you are experiencing (though your blogs give me some insight) but I want you to know that there are many of us on the ground who will be thinking of you every night while you remain up that beautiful tree and hoping your courageous stand is a great success. - Teresa

Hi Miranda,
This is amazing what your doing I'm very glad that I'm not the only one that cares about the forests.
I hope Julia Gillard realizes how bad this is.
Kind regards,
Samantha
P.S I'm a student at a primary school and we are learning about you

Hi Miranda, you are just amazing. I was so blown away last night when Bob Brown rang you from Bangalow hall & the first thing you said was how beautiful the moon & stars were that night. Generations will be thanking you for your courage & commitment. My heart is with you & wishing you strength & happiness in adversity. - Tony

Hi Miranda, along with every activist around the world, our forests and our beautiful planet, you are all an inspiration. Take care, Matty.

Miranda and the forest in the snow, taken from 60 metres high in the Observer Tree

Dedicated to Miranda Gibson,
Tasmania's precious native forests,
and all of those that fight for their protection.

www.observertree.org